

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATORS HINES, ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MARIONNEAUX, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THEUNISSEN AND ULLO

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Brian Lewis upon his death in ground combat action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis was a native of Melbourne, Florida, and moved to Louisiana when his parents relocated and Staff Sergeant Lewis began attending Bunkie Elementary School, ultimately graduating from Bunkie High School in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis entered the United States Army in 1993 and began his training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, fully intending to remain in the Army and make the military his chosen profession; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis had great success in the military, training hard and with much dedication to become an outstanding military policeman, and after completing the rigorous school, he was assigned to the 258<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, 519 Military Police Battalion, Warrior Brigade; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis was a leader of the highest caliber and as a result was given challenging, difficult duties with his unit where he served as a squad leader, team leader, and later hand-selected by the Army to function as the Protective Service Officer for a protective detail responsible for the security of a general officer; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis was a constant inspiration to his men and he soon was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he performed detainee operations with suspected terrorist fighters in the United States' War on Terror, chiefly responsible for questioning those detainees with discipline problems and serving as an Interment/Resettlement specialist; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis served his country bravely and with honor, and in the process, he successfully completed tours in South Korea with the 55<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, and other similar law enforcement duty stations in Germany and Fort McPherson, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis was 32 years of age when he led his men in a small convoy and headed through the deadly streets of northeast Baghdad in order to get to an Iraqi police station and assist in the raising of an Iraqi police unit when he and his men were engaged by terrorist forces on March 13, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis, even after receiving grievous wounds, continued to direct his men's fire while he received medical treatment for his mortal wounds before he was evacuated to Forward Operating Base Rustmaiya where he succumbed to his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lewis was a credit to himself and his men, employing the highest standards to accomplish his mission and for that and other reasons he was recognized and awarded many decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal for valor in combat, the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere condolences to the family of United States Staff Sergeant Brian Lewis from a grateful state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Lewis as a symbol of the Senate's grief and in honor of that family's sacrifice and loss in the United States of America's War on Terror.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE